

# CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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MAYOR



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## ***Jersey City to Honor the Life of Judge Shirley A. Tolentino Street Renaming of the Corner of Baldwin & Newark Avenues***

**JERSEY CITY** –Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy and members of the Municipal Council will rename the corner of Baldwin and Newark Avenues as ***Judge Shirley A. Tolentino Avenue*** in honor of **Judge Shirley A. Tolentino** at **3:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 21, 2012.**

“Judge Shirley A. Tolentino lived an illustrious and full life marked by countless accomplishments,” said **Mayor Healy**. “Renaming the corner of the Hudson County Courthouse in her honor is only fitting, as she has dedicated decades of her life to serving the courts and the people of our county.”

**Judge Shirley A. Tolentino**, who served as a Hudson County judge for 26 years, was a trailblazer with many “firsts” on her resume. She was the first African-American woman judge at the Jersey City Municipal Court, the first African-American woman appointed to a judgeship at the New Jersey State Superior Court, and was the only African-American woman in her graduating class at Seton Hall Law School.

Judge Shirley A. Tolentino passed away on October 31, 2010 at the age of 67. Attending the dedication ceremony is her husband, Dr. Ernesto Tolentino, two daughters, and grandchild.

### **About Judge Shirley A. Tolentino**

Born and raised in Jersey City, Judge Shirley A. Tolentino was a graduate of Snyder High School. She received a scholarship to attend the College of St. Elizabeth in Morristown, graduating with a B.A. in Latin in 1965.

Judge Tolentino worked as a high school Latin teacher while attending Seton Hall University School of Law as a night student. In 1971 she earned her juris doctorate, and later worked as a legal editor for Prentice-Hall from 1971 to 1972, as an adjudicator for the Veterans Administration from 1972 to 1973, and from 1973 to 1976 she was a deputy attorney general.

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In 1976, Judge Shirley A. Tolentino was appointed as a judge in the Jersey City Municipal Court, and was elevated to presiding judge in 1981. Judge Shirley A. Tolentino earned an L.L.M. in criminal justice from New York University School of Law in 1980, and she took a special interest in juvenile justice issues. In 1984, Gov. Thomas Kean nominated her to the Superior Court. She sat in the Family and Criminal Parts and most recently in the Civil Part.

Judge Tolentino served for 10 years on the Supreme Court Task Force on Minorities, advocating for a more diverse judiciary and for a more diverse court staff, and was a member of the National Association of Women Judges and was its president in 1996 through 1997. She volunteered her time for numerous civic groups, including the Hudson County Urban League, Hudson County C.Y.O., Hudson County Girl Scouts and the Visiting Homemakers Association of Hudson County.

**All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.///**